NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
Cultus Lake Resort Special Use Permit
And
Midstate Electric Power Line Maintenance Project
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District
Deschutes National Forest Service

The Bend Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, is providing an opportunity to comment on the following proposed actions:

Cultus Lake Resort Special Use Permit- Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District is proposing to reissue a special use permit to Cultus Lake Resort that would allow the permittee to continue to operate a resort on National Forest System lands. The permitted area is located in Township (T) 20 South (S), Range (R) 7 East (E), Section 24 W.M. approximately 15 miles south of Bend, OR. This project falls within the Northern Spotted Owl allocation of the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This project also falls within the area of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Midstate Electric Cooperative Power Line Maintenance Project- Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District is proposing to issue a special use permit to Midstate Electric Coop that would allow the permittee to replace deteriorating poles in accordance with NESC guidelines and repair an existing road along its power line right-of-way. Midstate would install new power poles every 300 feet. This permit area covers approximately 8.1 miles traversing portions of Sections 5, 8, 16, 17 and 21, T. 19 S., R. 11 E. and Sections 14, 15, 22, 17, 28, 32 and 33 of T. 18, S., R11 E., W.M. This project falls within the Wild and Scenic River, Intensive Recreation and General Forest allocations of the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species or their habitat would be affected by these projects. The reissuance of the resort special use permit would allow for the continued use of existing, permitted activities. The issuance of a construction special use permit to Midstate Electric Coop, would allow for the maintenance of existing permitted improvements. These projects are expected to be documented in a Decision Memo and implementation is planned for the summer of 2013. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Lisa Dilley, Special Uses Administrator, at the Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District (541) 383-4025.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to provide comments ends 30 days following the date of publication of this notice in The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted. The publication date of this notice in The Bulletin is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposed action. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments must be submitted to: Kevin Larkin, District Ranger, at 63095 Deschutes Market Road, Bend, Oregon, 97701 or by FAX at 541-383-4755. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official’s office during normal business
hours via telephone (see contact information above) or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or Word (.doc) to: comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-ftrock@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Please include the name of the proposed action in the email subject line.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will have eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.